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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/718,453	11/20/2003	Todd E. Tesch	DP-310230	9826
22851	7590	07/18/2006	EXAMINER	
DELPHI TECHNOLOGIES, INC.			GOODEN JR, BARRY J	
M/C 480-410-202			ART UNIT	
PO BOX 5052			PAPER NUMBER	
TROY, MI 48007			3616	

DATE MAILED: 07/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/718,453	TESCH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Barry J. Gooden Jr.	3616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

**DETAILED ACTION**

This office action is in response to the amendment filed 5/16/06.

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Claims 1-8 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 5/16/06.
2. This application contains claims 1-8 drawn to an invention nonelected with traverse. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.
3. Applicant's election with traverse of a method of folding an inflatable cushion in the reply filed on 5/16/06 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the groups represent merely different aspects of a single invention. This is not found persuasive because the inventions are distinct as discussed in the previous office action.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipate by Asano et al., US Patent 6,371,512 B1.

In regards to claims 9-14, Asano et al. clearly show a method for folding an inflatable cushion (See Figures 18 and 19) of a side airbag device comprising:

a securement end (35) of said inflatable cushion (316) provided;

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a first fold (325B) created at a first position away from said securement end (35), said first fold (325B) and said securement end (35) defining one side (left side) of the folded inflatable cushion (316);

a traversing portion (from 325B to 327) of said inflatable cushion (316) positioned away from said first fold (325B), said traversing portion (from 325B to 327) defining another side (top side) of the folded inflatable cushion (316);

a plurality of folds (327A) created from said traversing portion back towards said first fold (325B);

an end portion (327B) of said inflatable cushion (316) positioned about said plurality of folds (327A), said end portion (327B) defining another two sides (bottom and right sides) of the folded inflatable cushion (316), wherein said end portion (327B) is the first portion of said inflatable cushion to deploy (See Figure 19) when the inflatable cushion (316) is inflated;

wherein said securement end (35) has a plurality of securement features for facilitating the securement of said inflatable cushion (316);

wherein said side air bag device (316) is installed in a vehicle having a roof rail (28) and a headliner (40), wherein said inflatable cushion (316) is folded to be received within an area defined by the roof rail (28) and the headliner (40) (See figures 18 and 19);

wherein said end portion (327B) is configured to be adjacent to the headliner (40) (See figures 18 and 19); and

wherein said traversing portion (325B to 327) is configured to be adjacent to the roof rail (28) (See figure 18).

6. Claims 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tanase et al., US Publication 2001/0,006,287.

In regards to claims 16-19, Tanase et al. show (Figure 9) an inflatable cushion of a side airbag device (M1), comprising:

a securement end (10a and above) of said inflatable cushion (10) provided;

a traversing portion (10e) of said inflatable cushion (10) positioned away from said securement end (10a), said traversing portion (10e) defining a side (the top) of the folded inflatable cushion (10);

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a plurality of folds (Each section of material extending from the left (the end of the traversing portion (10e) to the right (the end of the securement portion) created from said traversing portion (10e) back towards said securement end (10a);

an end portion (10b) of said inflatable cushion (10) positioned about said plurality of folds, said end portion (10b) defining two sides (the left and bottom) of the folded inflatable cushion (10), wherein said end portion (10b) is the first portion of said inflatable cushion (10) to deploy when the inflatable cushion is inflated (See Figure 10A);

wherein said securement end (10a) has a plurality (See Figure 1) of securement features (29,36) for facilitating the securement of said inflatable cushion (10);

wherein said side air bag device (M1) is installed in a vehicle (See Figure 1)) having a roof rail (2(1)) and a headliner (7), wherein said inflatable cushion (10) is folded to be received within an area defined by the roof rail (2(1)) and the headliner (7) and said end portion (10b) is configured to be adjacent to the headliner (See Figure 9); and

wherein said traversing portion (10e) is configured to be adjacent to the roof rail (2(1)) (See Figure 9). It is noted that adjacent is defined as close or nearby (Webster's II New Riverside Dictionary, Revised Edition).

7. As both Tanase et al. and Asano et al. disclose the structures as claimed they inherently disclose the method for folding to arrive at the disclosed final structures.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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9. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

10. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asano et al. in view of Tanabe et al., US Patent 6,460,877.

In regards to claim 15, Asano et al. disclose all of the claimed elements excluding the inflatable cushion being folded by a machine. Tanabe et al. teach of an inflatable cushion (10) being folded by a machine (Column 10, lines 10-20).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the side impact airbag of Asano et al. in view of the teachings of Tanabe et al. to include being folded by a machine so as to provide a more efficient and reproducible resultant structure.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

11. Applicant's arguments filed 5/16/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

12. Examiner maintains that Asano et al., Tanabe et al. and Asano et al. in view of Tanabe et al. discloses all of the claimed elements as discussed above and in the previous rejection.

In regards to applicant's argument of Asano et al., Figure 18 shows a first fold (325B) before the transverse portion.

In regards to applicant's argument of Tanase et al., Figure 9 shows a traversing portion (10e).

In regards to applicant's argument of Asano et al. in view of Tanabe et al., Asano et al. discloses the claimed structure and Tanabe teaches of an inflatable cushion being folded by a machine.

**Conclusion**

13. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barry J. Gooden Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-5135. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul N. Dickson can be reached on (571) 272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BJG

Barry J Gooden Jr.  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3616

  
**DAVID R. DUNN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**